

Document 441 of 576**ENVELOPE**

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RTTUZYUW RUEKJCS7863 3142115-UUUU--RUEALGX.
ZNR UUUUU

HEADER

R 102115Z NOV 93
FM DIA WASHINGTON DC
INFO RUEAHQA/CSAF WASHINGTON DC
RUFGAID/USEUCOM AIDES VAIHINGEN GE
RHHJMCY/JICPAC HONOLULU HI
RUCIAEA/FASTC WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OH//SCIR//
RUCMACC/CDRPSYOPGP FT BRAGG NC//AORC-POG-SB//
RUCBSAA/USCINCLANT NORFOLK VA//J2//
RUWSMXI/AMC INTEL CEN SCOTT AFB IL//IN//
RUCQVAB/USCINCSOC INTEL OPS CEN MACDILL AFB FL
RUEOFAA/COMJSOC FT BRAGG NC//J2//
RULKQAN/MARCORINTACT DET QUANTICO VA
RUEABOA/HQ AFOSI BOLLING AFB DC
RULSJGA/COGARD INTELCOORDCEN WASHINGTON DC
RUSNNOA/USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
RUEALGX/SAFE

R 101735Z NOV 93
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1761
RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC/[REDACTED]
RUEAHOF/CDRPERSCOM ALEX VA//TAPC-PEZ/DAPE-ZB-TFR-H//
RUEHKV/AMEMBASSY KIEV 1740
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC//USDP:RSA/POW-MIA//
INFO RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC//OJCS-PW/MIA/J5//
RUAGOTC/CINCUNC SEOUL
BT

(b) (3)

CONTROLS

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 035460

DEPT FOR EUR/ISCA AND EAP

E.O. 12356: N/A

/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/

BODY

TAGS: KPOW, MOPS, PREL, PHUM, RS
SUBJECT: POW/MIA: INTERVIEW OF COL(RET)

REFERENCE: A) MOSCOW 30801 B) MOSCOW 31857

1. SUMMARY. TASK FORCE RUSSIA TEAM MEMBERS INTERVIEWED PAVEL IGNATEVICH BANDURKO ON OCTOBER 22, 1993, IN KIEV, UKRAINE, IN THE COMPANY OF COL(RET) DERSKIY(REFTEL A,B). BANDURKO PROVIDED TFR WITH HIS IMPRESSIONS OF POW OPERATIONS IN NORTH KOREA AND HANDED OVER THREE PHOTOGRAPHS OF ALLEGED DOWNED AMERICAN FLIERS DATING TO THE KOREAN WAR ERA. DIGITAL DISK WITH THE PHOTOS AND A FULL VIDEOTAPE OF THE INTERVIEW HAVE BEEN FORWARDED TO THE JCSB. END SUMMARY.

BACKGROUND

2. TFR MEMBERS TABACH AND GROH TRAVELED TO KIEV, UKRAINE, OCTOBER 20-27, 1993. COL DERSKIY PERSUADED BANDURKO TO BE INTERVIEWED AND, AT BANDURKO'S REQUEST, WAS PRESENT AT THE INTERVIEW. DER8KIY HAD PREVIOUSLY NAMED BANDURKO AS A POSSIBLE SOURCE FOR INTERVIEW (REFTEL A).

3. COL(RET) PAVEL IGNATEVICH BANDURKO SERVED IN KOREA FROM MAY 1950 TO DECEMBER 1952 AS A SOVIET AAA ADVISOR, INITIALLY TO THE 19TH NORTH KOREAN ANTIAIRCRAFT REGIMENT, AND LATER, AFTER REORGANIZATION, TO THE 20TH NORTH KOREAN ANTIAIRCRAFT REGIMENT. (BOTH UNITS WERE STATIONED IN PIN YANG.) ACCORDING TO BANDURKO, HE REPORTED TO THE "GENERAL STAFF", TO A COL LEVENKO (DECEASED, NFI). HE ARRIVED IN KOREA A MAJOR AND DEPARTED A LIEUTENANT COLONEL. BANDURKO ESTIMATED THAT 20-30 AIRCRAFT WERE SHOT DOWN BY HIS UNIT DURING HIS SERVICE IN KOREA. (TFR COMMENT: BANDURKO SKETCHILY REFERS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS IN THE INTERVIEW TO THE "GENERAL STAFF," PRESUMABLY THE NORTH KOREAN GENERAL STAFF. IN BANDURKO'S CHAIN OF COMMAND, COL LEVENKO APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN A SENIOR ADVISOR TO THE NORTH KOREANS. END COMMENT.)

4. BANDURKO SAID THAT ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, AFTER A SHOOTDOWN, HE WOULD SEE THE PILOT(S) BROUGHT TO BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS ON POST. PILOTS, BANDURKO SAID, WERE NOT INTERROGATED AT THE BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS, BECAUSE THERE WAS NO ENGLISH TRANSLATOR ON STAFF. HE SAID THE PILOTS WERE HELD AT BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS FOR A VERY SHORT TIME(HOURS), THEN SENT TO THE GENERAL STAFF, AS THE GENSTAFF HAD SPECIAL FACILITIES FOR INTERROGATIONS. HE SAID THAT HE NEVER PERSONALLY TOOK PART IN ANY ACTIVITIES WITH

AMERICAN POWS; HE SAID THAT ONLY THE KOREANS, NOT THE RUSSIANS, DEALT WITH POWS. BANDURKO SAID THAT HE HAD NO CONTACT WITH POWS, AS THIS WAS NOT IN HIS JOB DESCRIPTION.

5. BANDURKO PRODUCED THREE PHOTOGRAPHS OF FLIERS HE ALLEGES TO BE AMERICAN POWS. BANDURKO SAID THE PHOTOS WERE TAKEN BY THE REGIMENTAL PHOTOGRAPHER AND THAT THESE FLIERS WERE THE ONLY AMERICANS HE EVER PERSONALLY SAW. BANDURKO SAID HE NEVER ASKED ANYONE IN HIS CHAIN OF COMMAND WHAT HAPPENED TO THE INDIVIDUALS IN THESE PHOTOGRAPHS.

A. PHOTO OF A SINGLE PILOT. BANDURKO ESTIMATES PILOT AS 180CM TALL, LARGE FRAME, WITH A MINOR HEAD WOUND. BANDURKO SAID THAT THE PILOT FLEW AN RF-80 AIRCRAFT WITH NO ARMAMENT. BANDURKO DATES THE SHOOTDOWN AS JANUARY 21, 1951. BANDURKO SAID HE SAW THE PILOT IN THE MORNING. THE PILOT WAS TAKEN AWAY LATER THAT EVENING. BANDURKO SAID THE TAIL SECTION OF THE AIRCRAFT WAS TAKEN TO HIS BASE. BANDURKO SAID HE KNOWS NEITHER THE FATE OF THE PILOT, NOR THAT OF THE AIRCRAFT. THE TAIL NUMBER "AIR FORCE 9823" IS CLEARLY VISIBLE IN THE PHOTO.

B. PHOTO OF TWO ALLEGED B-26 PILOTS SITTING NEXT TO REMAINS OF AN AIRCRAFT. BANDURKO ESTIMATED THEIR AGES AT ABOUT THIRTY. BANDURKO SAID HE WENT TO THE CRASH SITE WITH THE REGIMENT COMMANDER PA SHAN HUN (NFI). BANDURKO SAID HE KNOWS NEITHER THE FATE OF THE PILOTS, NOR THAT

/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 002 *****/
OF
THE AIRCRAFT. BANDURKO DATES THE SHOOTDOWN AS MARCH 24, 1951.

C. PHOTO OF A YOUNG FLIER WEARING A USAF SERGEANT'S FLIGHT SUIT. BANDURKO SAID THE DOWNED FLIER FLEW IN A B-26, WHICH WAS SHOT DOWN SOMETIME IN 1951 NEAR PIN YANG. BANDURKO DOES NOT KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THE REMAINDER OF THE CREW. BANDURKO SAID THIS SERGEANT SPENT SEVERAL HOURS AT THE BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND WAS THEN SENT ON TO THE GENERAL STAFF.

6. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ON THE EXISTENCE OF ANY SPECIAL ORDER FOR THE CAPTURE OF F-86 AIRCRAFT OR PILOTS, BANDURKO RESPONDED THAT HE HAD NEVER HEARD OF ANY SUCH INSTRUCTIONS. HE ADDED THAT HIS UNIT WAS NOT ABLE TO SHOOT DOWN F-86 AIRCRAFT ANYWAY, AS THEY FLEW AT TOO HIGH AN ALTITUDE.

7. TASK FORCE RUSSIA SENDS. PICKERING

ADMIN

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